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Barnegat Lighthouse
Barnegat, Ocean County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Barnegat Lighthouse
Barnegat, Ocean County, New Jersey

Owner: State of New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1858

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: In danger of being washed away

Description: A circular tower about 160 feet high
of brick, walls 10 feet thick at the
base and 18 inches at the top

Historical Data:

It is claimed that there was a small harbor light on the northern tip of Long Beach during the Revolution; there is no proof. As far as we know the first light house was built in 1834 at a cost of \$6,000. It was a tower fifty feet high of brick, whitewashed. The light was the fourth on the New Jersey coast, was white and fixed, and did not flash. In 1855 the light was refitted and the following year the whole structure toppled into the water because of the encroachment of the sea. A temporary wooden structure with the salvaged light was erected. In 1857, the present light house was started. It was finished the following year. The total cost was \$60,000; \$45,000 for the tower proper and \$15,000 for the light. Every device that was known was used to secure a firm foundation. On this foundation ~~were~~ laid bricks heavily reenforced 10 feet thick at the base and 18 inches at the top. In the center of the building a heavy iron pipe was anchored vertically extending from the base to the top. On the pipe was threaded the spiral

stairway with its cast iron treads. At different levels windows were installed to furnish light and for look outs on the different points of the compass. The light tower was ringed with a fenced platform. The dome was covered with thick glass reenforced with wire screen and roof of sheet metal. The light was a sixteen thousand candle power kerosene one - one hundred and sixty-three feet above sea level.

The lighthouse served sixty-nine years. In 1927 a lightship was anchored off Barnegat. A gas light was installed and the original light was sent to the Tompkinsville Lighthouse Depot on Staten Island. Shortly after the gas light had been put in place electricity was brought to the island and a 250 watt electric bulb was placed in the tower and that is what is there now. It can be seen about eight miles out. The lighthouse boat is anchored about eight miles off the coast. The lighthouse belongs to the State of New Jersey having been presented to it by the federal authorities in 1925.

Bibliography:

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Walter C. Rutt
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Approved:

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